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~~SECRET~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

●PRIORITY

COUNTRY

BOLIVIA

DISTR. 20 MAY 1965

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

SUBJECT

SITUATION IN THE MINING CENTERS AS OF 1200 HOURS
LOCAL TIME ON 19 MAY 1965.

REF

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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1. IN MOROCACALA THE WORKERS HAD NOT BEEN ON STRIKE.
AT 1100 HOURS 19 MAY THEY DECIDED TO DECLARE A STRIKE BUT IN THE
PROCESS STRONGLY CRITICIZED JUAN LECHIN OQUENDO. THE WORKERS SAID
THAT THEY COULD NOT DEFEND A CHILEAN CITIZEN, AND THAT WHEN LECHIN
WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA HE WENT TO ITALY TO VISIT, IN SPITE
OF THE FACT THAT THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS AMONG THE WORKERS.
COMMENT: LECHIN WAS ALSO AMBASSADOR TO ITALY WHILE VICE-PRES-
IDENT.) THE WORKERS ALSO SAID THAT THEY DID NOT WANT LECHIN TO
RETURN TO BOLIVIA BECAUSE THE MINERS FEDERATION HAS BEEN CONVERTED

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INTO A VERITABLE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRIN) AND THAT, MOREOVER, WHILE LECHIN WAS VICE-PRESIDENT HE HAS NEVER REALLY HELPED THE WORKERS. THESE AND OTHER STRONG CRITICISMS WERE MADE BY THE WORKERS AT MOROCACALA. THE WORKERS FINALLY SAID THAT THEY WOULD GO ON STRIKE IN DEFENSE OF THE WORKERS' RIGHTS BUT NOT IN SUPPORT OF LECHIN.

2. IN SANTA FE AND JAPO THE WORKERS IN GENERAL WERE NOT IN FAVOR OF A GENERAL STRIKE. THIS SENTIMENT IS BELIEVE TO EXIST IN ALL THE MINES. ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE. ONLY THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS LEADERS ARE CONTINUING TO BE ACTIVE. THEY TRAVEL TO VARIOUS PLACES, FOR EXAMPLE ON 19 MAY A MEETING OF THE MINERS FEDERATION WAS HELD IN CATAYI AND THE EXTREMISTS LEADERS FROM THE VARIOUS MINING CENTERS WENT TO THE MEETING.

3. IT IS THE JUDGEMENT OF A NUMBER OF NON-COMMUNISTS MINE UNION LEADERS THAT THE STRIKE WILL SOON END, FOR THE WORKERS ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS.

4. IN SOME OF THERE CENTERS THE TECHNICIANS ARE ABSENT, AND IN OTHERS THE TECHNICIANS WHO HAVE REMAINED ARE BEING WELL-TREATED. SOME OF THEM HAVE EVEN TAKEN PART IN MEETING OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEES AND HAVE GIVEN THEIR ADVICE, SUCH AS IN THE JAPO MINING CENTER.

5. A DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD IN ORURO BUT IT WAS VERY POORLY ATTENDED. THERE WERE NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM HUANUNI, JAPO,

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MOROCACALA, SANTA FE, OR CATAVI. THE ONLY ONES WHO PARTICIPATED CAME FROM AVICAY AND SAN JOSE AND THESE WERE FORCED TO ATTEND.

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6. WHILE STRIKE SENTIMENT IS MINIMAL, HEAVY HANDED ARBITRARY ACTS AGAINST REAL LABOR LEADERS EVEN OF LEFTIST PERSUASION MAY CONDITION THE STRIKE ATTITUDES OF THE MINERS.

7. [REDACTED] DISSEM: CINCSO.

(END OF MESSAGE)

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